(c) if so, the reasons for opening the retails trade sector to the FDI?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Relaxation of FDI Rules

*251. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to relax the rule governing Foreign Direct Investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government have so far taken or propose to take to save the economic environment of the country in case such investors abandon the contracts because of flexible labour policies and bankruptcy laws?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Government, in its commitment towards economic reforms, have announced the new Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy thereby placing all items/activities under the automatic route for Foreign Direct Investment(FDI), Non-Resident Indians (NRI) and Overseas Corporate Body (OCB) investment except the following:

1. All proposals the require an Industrial Licence which include (i) the item requiring an Industrial Licence under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951; (ii) foreign investment being more than 24% in the equity capital of units manufacturing items reserved for small scale industries; and (iii) all items which require an Industrial Licence in terms of the locational policy notified by Government under the New Industrial Policy of 1991.
2. All proposals in which the foreign collaborator has a previous venture/tie-up in India. The modalities prescribed in Press Note No. 18 dated 14.12.1998 of 1998 series, shall apply in such cases.
3. All proposals relating to acquisition of shares in an existing Indian company in favour of a foreign/NRI/OCB investor.
4. All proposals falling outside notified sectoral policy/caps or under sectors in which FDI is not permitted and/or whenever any investor

chooses to make an application to the FIPB and not to avail of the automatic route.

All proposals for investment public sector units as also for EOU/EPZ/ EHTP/STP units would qualify for automatic route subject to above parameters.

(c) The companies having foreign direct investment are subject to all Indian laws like domestic companies and therefore cannot abandon the ventures casually.

Meeting of Joint Committee of Management and Workers

*252. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Joint Committee of management and workers has not met for a long time;

(b) if so, the last date of holding such a Joint Committee;

(c) the reasons for the delay in holding such a Joint Committee meetings; and

(d) when the next meeting is likely to be convened by the management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (d) There are three Joint Committees of Management and Workers. The meetings of these Joint Committees are held as per the requirements and at the convenience of the members belonging to trade unions, management of steel plants and their member organisations. The last meetings of each of these Committees were held as follows:

1.	National Joint Committee for Steel Industry (NJCS)	08.3.2000
2.	Production Productivity Committee (PPC)	16.6.1999
3.	Joint Committee on Safety, Health and Environment in the Steel Industry (JCSSI)	28.5.1999

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has informed that two meetings of National Joint Committee for Steel Industry (NJCS) were fixed for 30.9.1999 and 1.2.2000. However, on the request of NJCS members, these meetings were postponed. Similarly, the meeting of Joint Committee of Safety, Health and Environment in the Steel Industry (JCSSI) which was scheduled on 29th September 1999 was postponed in view of elections to the Lok Sabha.